

Practice makes Perfect.

This is also embodied within the 7 P's: Proper Prior Planning Prevents P... Poor Performance. How can you prepare for the 24-Hour Endurance Yacht Race? This race is not the watery equivalent of a walk in the park; you as the skipper, your crew and your boat need to be ready. When was the last time you checked the running gear on your boat? Are your navigation lights working? Has your engine been serviced lately? Talk to Phil Trowbridge of Strait Marine. Do you have all the safety gear on board like life jackets/harnesses, torches, flares, tethers, wet weather gear etc. Kirk and his team at Burnsco will help you out.

Have you organised your crew? If you need more crew, put your name down on the 'crew wanted' page <https://www.lbyc.org.nz/24-hour-endurance-race>. Make sure you get a firm commitment from them. The last thing you need is somebody pulling out at the last moment.

You haven't sailed during the hours of darkness? That need not be a show stopper; the club is organising a couple of trial night races on Saturday the 2nd of February and Saturday the 2nd of March (changed from 23rd of February as mentioned in the almanac). Those races start at 2030 (the onset of darkness) and usually finish at around 2230 or 2300. Get a feel for what Wellington Harbour looks and feels like at night time. Familiarise yourself with the navigation lights and take somebody with night time sailing experience with you. You might want to crew on a yacht with an experienced skipper. Don't use the 24-Hour Endurance Yacht Race as your first night time practice run. Be sensible, be responsible.

Racing for 24 hours can obviously cause tiredness at some point, usually later in the race. Be aware of this and take the necessary precaution. The Notice of Race (NoR) and Sailing Instructions (SI) stipulate that each participating yacht shall have at least one other crew member (besides the skipper) who can take control of the yacht while the skipper is resting. The NoR also stipulates that at least two crew members must have experience in sailing during the hours of darkness. While eligibility to enter the race requires a minimum number of four crew (including the skipper) on each participating yacht, perhaps you might consider taking an extra crew member (if there is enough space on your boat) so that all on board have ample opportunity and time to take a rest in the comfort of the cabin. While resting in that way is not the same as your warm bed at home, it is still vitally important that you and your crew lie down for a few hours to avoid the onset of exhaustion.

Now for something very different.

We are going to make a film of the 24-Hour Endurance Yacht Race, and if I say 'we', I mean 'you'. I am calling on all skippers and crew to have their cameras at the ready and film or photograph the event from the yacht you are on. Take footage of 'life-aboard', action shots, other yachts in the race. Some of you may have a Go-Pro camera on board. They provide great footage. You may be a skilled drone operator and provide a bird's eye view of the fleet in action. After the race we would like to collect all the material and try to combine it into a cinematic record of the 2019 24-Hour Endurance Yacht Race. I would be the first to admit that this is utterly new territory for me, so if you are even half an expert in this field, please come forward – we have a job for you.

Dates to remember

- 24-Hour Endurance Yacht Race 16 and 17 March 2019
- Entries open on 30 January and close at 2200 on 6 March. Late entries may be accepted up till 2000, 12 March.

- Entry form, Notice of Race and safety inspection sheet available from 30 January on www.lbyc.org.nz or LBYC club house
- Entry fee \$125.00. Late entry fee \$150.00
- First skippers' briefing at LBYC club house on Thursday 7 March at 1930. Sailing Instructions will be available.
- Pre-race briefing at 0830 on Saturday 16 March. Compulsory attendance for all skippers.

Look forward to seeing you on the start line



Theo Muller

Race Director 24-Hour Endurance Yacht Race.